



MA/MSc Politics

(One Year Full Time or
Two Years Part Time)

Introduction

The School of Politics and International Relations offers an MA/MSc Politics degree, which was developed for those who wish to understand the role of politics in shaping the great issues of our day including power and conflict, distribution and inequality, relations between nations, and the new challenges of globalisation, financial crisis, national security, and climate change. The course focuses on the two traditional pillars of the discipline – political theory and comparative politics. Comparative politics looks at the European nation-states in a comparative perspective. Political theory—the reflection on the nature and morality of

politics—is almost as old as politics itself. SPIRE has a tradition of strength in political theory, addressing issues such as democracy, justice, human rights, citizenship, multiculturalism and immigration, security and terror, freedom and inequality, which call for reflection on the moral implications of politics and knowledge of the history of political thought. You may choose to study for an MA or MSc qualification in Politics. The MSc track includes additional research training and is particularly suitable if you want a career in research or academia. The MA track is more flexible and allows you to choose to complete a thesis or an internship.

Programme Highlight

The longest established Masters programme in SPIRe that includes a wide range of modules.

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Programme Content and Structure

90 credits Taught Masters = **60 credits** Taught Modules + **30 credits** Thesis or **30 credits** Internship (MA only)

Core Modules:

- Comparative European Politics
- Research Design (MA only)

Additional core modules required for MSc:

- Introduction to Statistics
- Qualitative Research Methods for Political Science

Please see www.ucd.ie/graduateadmissions for a full list of modules.

Option Modules:

MA students choose three optional modules and MSc students choose two optional modules from the partial list below:

- Politics of Human Rights
- Global Justice
- Middle East & North Africa
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- Politics of (mis-)information
- Gender, Identity, & Difference
- Politics of Ireland North & South
- Gender and Development
- EU Foreign and Security Policy
- Politics European Governance
- The Politics of Inequality
- International Security
- Programming for Social Scientists
- Politics of Authoritarianism

Why study at UCD?



Graduate Education

12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs



Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking



Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland



Global Community

8,500 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries



Global Profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



Welcoming Campus

Modern parkland campus with 24 hr security. Wide range of facilities, clubs, societies and supports



Career Opportunities

Graduates work with a wide variety of international private-sector employers, government agencies and non-Governmental Organisations in roles such as: government social researcher, diplomatic advisor, public affairs consultant, public relations officer, political advisor.

Recent graduates of UCD School of Politics & International Relations now work in:

- United Nations
- World Trade Organisation
- IMF
- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Asia Development Bank

Graduate Profile



Coral Richardson

When looking at potential programs, the UCD Politics program stood out because it offered unique elective options and featured faculty members with expertise and current research in fields that interested me. Starting a degree in a new field was daunting at first, however, the faculty, peers, and courses have overwhelming highlights of my time at UCD and I feel more than adequately prepared for future work in research and academia. I have had the chance to work with several faculty members in my own courses and as a tutor through the Master's Graduate Scholarship program. Each professor has been engaging and passionate about their research as well as willing to help me narrow my academic interests.

In addition to the uplifting academic environment, I have met so many new friends from Europe and abroad that have introduced me to new customs and ideas that have expanded my worldview. Academically speaking, this course offered a balance of elective and required courses that simultaneously improved my research abilities and general understanding of modern politics without restricting opportunities to further my research interests in more specific subfields such as development politics. The optional elective courses are diverse and can accommodate most research interests with focuses on major political subfields: international relations, comparative politics, and political theory while the required courses were engaging and invaluable to building my confidence in research methods.

Applicant Profile

- This programme is intended for applicants with a degree in a relevant subject such as political science, international relations, social science, sociology, history, geography, economics, global studies, public policy, development studies, EU studies, law. An upper second class honours, or international equivalent is required.
- Your application will be considered on its individual merits and relevant professional experience will also be taken into account.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships for further information.

SPIRe also offers EU fee scholarships to graduate students. Please see www.ucd.ie/spire/study/prospectivemastersstudents/spiremastersgraduatescholarship for further information.

Related Masters

- MA/MSc International Relations
- MSc International Political Economy
- Master in Public Policy

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APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at

www.ucd.ie/apply